

The Indian Thread

eMi² Newsletter, March 2005

“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow. Isaiah 9.2”



I imagine with me for a moment.

Imagine a City of Light; a holy city, where God resides. Imagine a city with a river flowing through it, a river with healing water that washes away sin. Imagine a city that is dedicated to the worship of God, where people from all nations come in multitudes to find Truth and the reality of God, to meet God himself.



Ivy and Greg share a candle light
architecture review

What you might imagine is not what we saw with our eyes. It was the counterfeit.

Last month, I led an eMi² design team to Varanasi, North India. Also called Kashi, it is one of the holiest places in India. Death here is believed to bring instant and unconditional salvation. The river Ganges that flows through it is believed to cleanse sin with its waters. Temples are everywhere, places dedicated to learning about and worshiping of the gods.

Our clients asked us to design an orphanage, daycare and training center. In the last few years, God's hand had been showing them His plans for Varanasi, and leading them to build this new complex. Located in one of the most underdeveloped areas of India, Varanasi has a great need in this regard.

While we were there, we were hit by the absolute contradictions in this holy city. We saw the struggles that our clients faced in this simple task of doing good. We heard about powerful and corrupt men who brought fear for

the sake of extortion, acting much like the fearsome gods they themselves sought to appease. In the City of Lights, we sketched plans by candlelight, because of the frequent electricity cuts. The holy city was far from clean: sidewalks looked like garbage dumps and sewage flowed freely in the streets. Posters with sexual content were pasted on the walls right next to the holy temples. A sign proclaimed almost mockingly, "Cleanliness is Godliness".

Yet, in the midst of this, our team saw God's love in a new way; for it expands and covers even places like these. Encouraged, we joined in unity with our clients' vision and prayed for His Light to shine in the midst of the darkness.

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow. Isaiah 9.2

Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as day. Isaiah 58.10

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8.12

Let your light shine, Lord.

Shalom Lazarus,
Communications Manager, eMi²

new eMi² staff



Gretchen West is returning as staff after a earlier season with eMi² as a volunteer. Hailing from the sunny corn fields of Illinois Gretchen appreciates the simple life that can be enjoyed in the majestic mountains of India, at the expense of warmth during the winter months. However, after cut fingers and a burnt shawl she manages to keep her lips from turning blue with the aid of her trusty companion, the bucarí (wood stove). With love to invest in relationships she is currently studying the Hindi language to better communicate with the people of this nation. Gretchen is glad to be back to serve the Lord with her life and we are glad to have her join us.

Architect

Graphic designer



Chris Roark has come to serve as staff graphic designer after serving as an intern in the Colorado Springs office in where he designed many of the eMi publications and was part of two project trips to Cambodia and Jordan. Originally from the hills of Missouri, to the Rockies of Colorado, and now to the Himalayas of Mussoorie Chris is adapting fairly well to India by teaching us all to hackie-sack, learning the Hindi language, visiting villages with a local doctor, designing this newsletter and waiting for his body to properly digest lentils and onions. Chris's heart of grace and willingness to serve God in many ways is truly a blessing to the eMi² office.



eMi² 2005 spring Interns

Jackson Lee, "Man of few words", is most recently from Waterloo, Canada this Taiwanese-born civil engineer loves to watch people play board games like The Settlers of Catan. On project trips he entertains his fellow trip mates by reading such classics as Cinderella. His bedtime is past midnight and it is suspected that he is crafting a plan to take over the world... or fostering his inner architect. Jackson is a humble servant and will fight to the death to have the privilege of taking your finished plate to the sink. In short he is a simple man with a shiny blue waterproof duffel bag he intends to auction to earn his airfare back to Canada where he will continue serving with eMi in the Calgary, Canada office.



Gifty John, "The precious one", is the youngest of the group, but she can knit like grandma. During the harshest winter in recent years, our Maryland-born Keralean architecture intern invented, knitted "leg warmers." Whenever she is not knitting, she would be reading a book. Dare not think she is a passive knitter and bookworm. You can often find her, sitting beside the "central heating unit (bucari)", taking on the war-mangling guys in board games. She stakes her claim by being the only girl with the winning record in The Settlers of Catan. However, that's not why she is here, she wants to share God's love in the country of her roots.



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